

Part 2 of testimony opposing Millenium Bulk Coal Terminal in Longview, WA

As options lessen, despair and bitterness worsen, as alienation and isolation increase, and cynical rage burns hotter, chronic stress increases chronic diseases, alcoholism/drug dependence, drug crimes/thefts, domestic violence, birth defects and learning disabilities. On top of the pollution-caused birth defects, still births, learning disabilities, dementias, cancers, diabetes, heart problems, asthma and pneumonia, etc. These as well as autism increases the stress and violence. This means more PTSD and depression and distraction so fewer people have the mental attention or energy to invest in environmental protections and new risky businesses or environmental resiliency and disaster preparedness. Families will break up, social service organizations and fraternities, religious groups, neighborhood groups, schools, etc. will lose cohesion, mutual trust and hope, resilience, creativity and the means to make more sound sustainable decisions and follow through with them. Right when our problems demand more urgent, creative, inspired cooperation, there would be less. With learned helplessness and cynicism, there would be less joy and love to sustain the hard work in front of us.

There would be no funding or volunteers or hope for the Girl Scouts, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Americorps, etc. day camps and summer camps and outdoor ed, etc. to nurture an understanding and comfort and love for nature and a commitment to our duties. There would not be those inspiring times in community working together to restore and rehabilitate natural areas and enjoy how nature restores our soul and body. With more demands on teachers and social workers and health care professionals and police, there would be less ability to nurture and celebrate the hope and creative rethinking that is necessary to find better solutions and to nurture the individuality of each child and adult, and therefore we would lose more creativity, talent, hope, and community resilience needed to create and sustain the environmental and economic and social solutions we have not developed yet. This would increase the negativity and us-vs-them mentality that relies on intimidation, force, control, and fear. That would lower creative and courageous risk-taking and lessen democracy when we most need each of these.

Obviously, the looming coal fires, shipwrecks and coal spills, mercury/arsenic/cadmium poisoning and other disasters with guaranteed betrayal by Millenium that has repeatedly lied and cheated and not paid its share of costs and taxes, means that the inevitable pollution clean up, fire/explosion clean up, destruction to infrastructure, etc. would mean less hope and fewer resources for Millenium neglect and fraud and bankruptcy would be passed onto taxpayers least able to pay for it. That again means less public and private money and human time available for environmental clean up and sustainable economy. This has happened with every mining operation and coal operation and fossil fuel operation in the world. Not one has ever been proven safe, healthy, sustainable, or beneficial overall to the local environment or society. Ever in world history. No one would be left to clean up the ghost town leaching poisons into the Columbia, Pacific, atmosphere, etc. and this would cause more environmental disasters in the fisheries, forests, croplands, aquifers, climate, coastal communities, etc. This would cause more extinctions and worsened water, food, housing, safety options for people in the Northwest and around the world.

Allowing the Millenium Bulk Coal Terminal to exist or still be considered means the cascade of worsening environmental harms and lessening environmental strengths and health would only worsen the local economy and ability to care for the environment and community. This means less taxable income and citizen williness/ability to pay for the environmental costs that Millenium will cause and not pay, so healthier projects will not come or stay.

